

Neighborhood
socials, p.12



Mask-making,
p.12

A Franklin Park Perspective On Coping with Coronavirus

by René Sewell-Rayson

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

The sun is shining and birds are chirping. It's a beautiful spring day. Missing is the sound of children's laughter punctuating the stillness. The COVID-19 cloud has touched every aspect of Greenbelt life.

Signs of the time are everywhere. Barricaded playgrounds. Lunches being distributed to ease the strain on family budgets. Small businesses have been shut down. The movie theaters have gone dark. The Giant grocery store has senior hours. Those over 60 and those with underlying health issues can shop in a relatively customer-free zone with the hope that the most democratizing staple – toilet paper – will be on the shelf.

At Springhill Lake Elementary School, a table buttresses the door as a voice calls out "Grab a lunch," "Grab your snack," "Don't forget to come back Monday." The voice declines to be interviewed for this article citing Prince George's County Public Schools protocol but the friendliness in her voice lets children



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

A school lunch delivery waits for pickup at Springhill Lake Elementary School. The delivery point provides breakfast, lunch and a snack for all student age groups.

know that she is there for them. After the initial rollout of free breakfast, lunch and a snack for school children around the county, Springhill Lake Elementary

was added as a distribution center.

Gangully Abashe, father of five, brought three of his children
See **COPING**, page 11

Recreation, CARES and GAIL Develop Long-term Strategies

by Matthew Arbach

City departments, like Recreation, Greenbelt CARES and GAIL, are now in the process of bringing their programs to the community in a way that works with the serious, precautionary

steps being taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic, especially social distancing. Concerning recreational programs, Public Information and Communications Coordinator Beverly Palau said,

"we are not launching any in-person classes and are discussing ways to bring programming to the citizens by other means. Liz Park, director of Greenbelt CARES, said "CARES and GAIL staff will be teleworking during the city building closures. We are working to continue providing services via Zoom as a HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliant telehealth/teletherapy program. Staff are also reachable via telephone." Palau noted that the city is in a "wait and see pattern, with no way of knowing what is going to happen in the coming weeks."

Palau explained that the city has taken quick and decisive actions, in accordance with county, state and presidential mandates, to implement safeguards to protect citizens. These decisions "have been vetted and discussed at length," with all possibilities taken into account.

Acting Recreation Director Greg Varda said that Greenbelt Recreation is offering a variety of free virtual programming for all ages. Currently, there are several programs that are

See **STRATEGIES**, page 9



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

The City of Greenbelt holds a virtual Cakewars where residents submit their culinary creations and earn votes on Facebook. One of the bakers/decorators, Emily, age 8, holds a Vegan Chocolate Mint cake.

For Students, Some Guidance, Many Challenges, Concerns

by Melissa Sites

School closures due to COVID-19 have brought a number of challenges to Prince George's County students and their families. Prince George's County Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Dr. Monica Goldson released information to provide clarity to public school students and their families. Some of these issues concern graduating high school seniors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams, Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) testing, cleaning and disinfection of school buildings, continuity of instruction and use of distance learning technologies.

Goldson stated that, for graduating high school senior proms

and graduation, "we do anticipate postponing those celebrations for all high schools. We hope to hold graduation ceremonies later this summer and we are working with venues on rescheduling senior proms. I know how much these celebrations mean to our students and families, all of whom worked very hard to get to this point."

Goldson had good news for students preparing to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams: "Many students are scheduled to take Advanced Placement exams in May. The College Board announced last week that in-person tests will be replaced by online

See **SCHOOLS**, page 8

Artist-in-residence Karlson Proposes Gift to the City

by Nicole DeWald



PHOTO BY NICOLE DEWALD

Kathy Karlson poses among her paintings in her Community Center studio.

Painter Kathy Karlson is known to many Greenbelters for her bright, energetic artwork and her kind demeanor. She has been an artist in residence at the Community Center for 13 years. Karlson says that the experience has been enriching for her as well. "Greenbelt has made my artist's life satisfying and often joyful," she comments. "I have made many friends in Greenbelt and appreciate the support of the community, the staff of the Center and artist colleagues."

Karlson is currently seeking to express her gratitude to the city through the creation of a painting for display at the Municipal Building. She is contemplating a large piece in a vertical format that would add light and color to

this lofty but bare public space. In a letter to the Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board, Karlson notes "the painting would be a gift, something permanent for the city."

The Arts Advisory Board reviewed Karlson's proposal at their March 3 meeting and agreed

See **PAINTING**, page 11

What Goes On

There are no public city events or meetings scheduled for April. The budget work-session scheduled for April 1 has been postponed.

Letters to the Editor

Help-By-Phone Open

The Help By Phone (HBP) food pantries in our county are open and stocked with our usual canned and boxed food. The pantry serving Greenbelt is at Berwyn Presbyterian Church, 6301 Greenbelt Rd – across the street from the McDonalds near Beltway Plaza. Pantries are open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

It is important to call us at 301-699-9009 before coming. This phone is answered Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Mondays and Tuesdays we answer from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call us also for the location of our other pantries.

HBP appreciates how Green-belters and other neighbors support us with donations of canned and boxed food and checks. The pantry is a 501(c)(3). The mailing address is Help By Phone, Box 324, Riverdale, MD 20738.

Thank you and stay safe.

Marsha Voigt
Chairman of the Board of Directors, Help By Phone.

The Greater Good

I’ve been thinking that one’s coronavirus stimulus check could be put to use for Greenbelters in difficulty.

I checked with a large local charity and was told there was no immediate need. With that in mind, I contacted someone from the city who was enthusiastic about the prospect and I will pursue this course of action with the city on how best to proceed.

The City of Greenbelt has an Emergency Relief Fund that is sorely lacking in monies. These funds are allocated as one-time grants to families and individuals who are at risk of eviction. For now, there is a moratorium on evictions but when that moratorium is lifted there may be an onslaught.

This is only one of many ways we can help our community.

Jonathan Bell

Thank you, Co-op

One upside to limited movement should be that it’s harder to lose things like your keys. So I was pretty frustrated last week when I lost my key ring with all my keys, library card, etc., on it. After a thorough search of our home and yard, I thought to myself the only place I had been to was our Co-op grocery store.

So I went to the customer service window and asked if any keys had been turned in to them. The staff member was very helpful and showed me several sets of keys, one of which was mine.

I want to thank whoever turned my keys in to the office and the Co-op grocery store for keeping them safe for me. Even now, when we cannot gather, the Co-op is still there to help us stay sane and connect with each other.

Ginny Jones



Co-op Responds to COVID: Safety-first is Top Priority

by Brogan Gerhart

In an announcement to customers, Greenbelt Co-op General Manager Bob Davis said that the Co-op has reserved special times for seniors and other vulnerable shoppers, provided sanitizer wipes at both entrances of the store for customers to use on baskets and carts and suspended a few of its services to limit opportunities for COVID-19 to spread.

Reserved shopping times for seniors and other vulnerable shoppers – 7 to 9 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday – were put into practice on March 25.

Along with sanitizer wipes, Davis announced that the Co-op also continues to take enhanced measures to clean and disinfect all departments, restrooms and other high-touch points of the store throughout the day, as well as a deep cleanse each morning.

Employees, who are trained to follow a strict set of standard operating procedures when handling products, are also given ample opportunities to wash their hands,

Davis wrote, and cashiers are given gloves and hand sanitizers at their registers.

“At Greenbelt Co-op the safety of our employees, customers and the community is our greatest concern,” Davis wrote, assuring shoppers that along with these additional precautions, the Co-op’s doors would remain open and continue to have essential goods, with the inventory being replenished as quickly as possible.

In terms of the services that are temporarily suspended in light of the public health crisis, Davis listed the following:

- Temporarily stopped the Rain Check service/policy.
- The store may be out of some items indefinitely. It will make every effort to let customers know when they will be in stock again.
- Not accepting any returns at this time.
- The self-serve salad bar, soup bar and coffee bar are now closed.

- Tasting events, including the popular wine tastings, have been discontinued.

Davis said the community could help the Co-op continue serving people to the best of its ability. He encouraged shoppers to select no more than two of each item they are purchasing per shopping trip.

In addition Davis said, “As recommended by state and local health officials, we encourage you to wash or sanitize your hands before entering the store as a courtesy to your neighbors and co-workers. We have posted signs throughout the store reminding everyone to practice smart social distancing inside the Co-op allowing for a six-foot safe space around you wherever possible.”

Davis also asked that if shoppers feel ill, they stay home to maintain the safety and health of the Co-op and the community. Information about Greenbelt Co-op store hours and more can be found at greenbelt.coop.

Restaurant Updates

An updated list of local restaurants which are open for take-out/delivery can be found at www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.



How Are You Coping?

Send us your stories and photos, showing what you are doing during forced time at home. We will publish a selection of these submissions during the coming weeks. Email editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Service or Garden Side?



I’m going to quarantine these Coronas at home.
-B. Glee

Mail Alert

Due to the closure of the Community Center it appears that some mail sent to us is being returned to the sender. Mail can be placed through the mail slot in our outside door. If that is not feasible, please email us at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

University of Maryland Reporters

University of Maryland students in journalism are writing for the News Review: India Afriyie, Rayonna Burton-Jernigan, Aneurin Canham-Clyne, Brogan Gerhart, Michelle Siegel and Grace Kathleen Todd.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com
Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977
Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor Emerita
Gary Childs, Editor
STAFF

Matt Arbach, Mary Ann Baker, Peggy Barrett, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Melinda Brady, Jessi Britton, Rick Coleman, Jill Connor, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Deanna Dawson, Justine Desmarais, Leigh Ellis, Angie Evans, Ana Fernandez-Napp, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, James Giese, Bernadette Gormally, Jim Gray, Carol Griffith, Mary Halford, Amy Hansen, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Larry Hull, Ginny Jones, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Suzette Joyner, Jennifer Moser Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Sun Kim, Sue Krofchik, Sandra Lange, Sylvia Lewis, Marcie Lissauer, Chris Logan, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Joan Marionni, Kathleen McFarland, Cathie Meetre, Jessica Michaca Silva, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Carolina Napp-Avelli, Patricia Novinski, Diane Oberg, Marylee Platt, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Maya Robinson, Sandy Rodgers, Lois Rosado, JoEllen Sarff, Pat Scully, Carl Seely, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Alan Turnbull, Jamie Voytsekhovska, Cameron Weekes, Lynn White, Janice Wolf, Karen Yoho, Ray Zammuto, Stan Zirkin and Dea Zugby.

CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: Karen Yoho circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
Greenbelt East: Contact Condominium Homeowner’s Association
Circulation and Distribution information also available at:
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Ray Zammuto, treasurer; Tom Jones, Pat Scully and Sylvia Lewis.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.

Fig Butter-cups make a joyful carpet in a glade at the upper end of Stream Valley Park. This plant, also known as Lesser Celandine, is a non-native invasive that is popping up in moist areas around the city.



PHOTO BY JOHANNA MOORE

City Notes

City Administration senior staff met by teleconference, had multiple conference calls on COVID-19 and participated in a conference call about the 2020 Census hosted by representatives from the Census Bureau.

Administration in various departments continued COVID-19 preparation and participated in virtual meetings to discuss pandemic planning.

Animal Control impounded and transported four baby squirrels for rehabilitation. One cat was adopted. Current shelter residents are four kittens, three cats and one gecko.

Street Maintenance/Special Details was trained on delivering food to Green Ridge House.

Horticulture/Parks prepared the greenhouse for plants.

Refuse/Recycling collected 27.86 tons of refuse and 12.85 tons of recycling material.

Building Maintenance painted the fitness wing at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

Recreation Department staff prepared to work remotely to effectively continue programs and services during facility closures with minimal on-site staff.

Public Works closed off city playgrounds, basketball courts, tennis courts and the skate park.

Youth programs developed new concepts for a possible city-wide Egg Hunt, incorporating social distancing programming.

Instructors are being encouraged to develop new program content for recreation classes, programs and special events during facility closures.

Moms Morning Out students received a new homework packet this week along with educational links to keep them engaged while their preschool is closed.

New videos with the Dance Program instructor and preschool director have been created for the city website and Facebook pages.

The Dance Program has planned mini-lessons for all dance students, and will teach via Zoom as a beta test of remote dance instruction. Students have been divided by age for the test dance instruction model. Feedback from students and families will guide planning for program implementation.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center has been closed due to COVID-19. Memberships will be extended to match the closure. Public

Works has continued working on repairs throughout the facility and finished painting the fitness wing.

The Community Center welcomed Carrie Hannigan as a new administrative assistant. Training has been modified to ensure appropriate distance and remote learning. Staff continues to work a modified schedule and all are extremely appreciative of Public Works' continual sanitation of bathrooms, door handles and areas regularly used by staff.

Arts staff is coordinating with instructors, testing digital resources and planning for a range of online arts programming. In coordination with instructors, testing of digital resources and planning for a range of online spring programming are underway. Normal spring programs continue to be rescheduled as facility closures are extended.

Therapeutic Recreation worked with GAIL and the Prince George's County Department of Aging Nutrition Program to ensure continuation of senior meal programs by providing a week's worth of frozen meals for the Food and Friendship program. Sixteen seniors received food and the other seniors said they were "ok, thanks." GAIL coordinated delivery, training Brian Butler of Public Works to assist in the pick-up and delivery of food.

Park rangers answered many questions from park visitors concerning COVID-19. Rangers informed a few parents about the closure of the playgrounds at Buddy Attick Park and Schrom Hills Park, and cautioned them, using CDC information, about how COVID-19 can be spread. Many requests to keep the parks open were received. A number of visitors came to the parks, but no groups over 10. Rangers report people seemed to be keeping a safe distance from each other.

CARES and GAIL staff transitioned to teletherapy and phone contact with clients to maintain services during the COVID-19 closures. Staff is exploring avenues to offer services while maintaining social distancing.

Judye Hering held a virtual Budget Workshop class for young people between the ages of 16 and 24. Participants learned about developing a budget, credit cards, debit cards and other financial literacy items.



From the City of Greenbelt Facebook page, March 29: Not feeling it today? Coming up with educational and entertaining options is exhausting. So we picked an easy one today! For today's 10 a.m. Kids Post we have a scavenger hunt! Draw some squares, hand your kids some crayons (we recommend reds, browns, purples, greys, greens, and yellows), and then head outside for a leisurely stroll to try to see what colors you can find that match!

Community Events

Public Hearing on Map Amendment Postponed

The Countywide Map Amendment (CMA) Joint Public Hearing scheduled for March 23 will be rescheduled at a later date. For more information about the meeting cancellation, see /pgccouncil.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=762.

The public hearing is part of a process leading to the approval of a new zoning map, including the Greenbelt Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone, thereby implementing the zones contained in the new Zoning Ordinance for Prince George's County adopted by the county council through Council Bill CB-13-2018 on October 23, 2018. The CMA is intended to implement the Zoning Ordinance by placing property in the new zone that is closest in uses and purposes to the property's current zone. The joint hearing would provide all interested persons the opportunity to express their views on the CMA.

For more information on the Zoning Ordinance for Prince George's County and CMA, visit zoningpgc.pgplanning.com, call 301-952-4944 or email zoningpgc@ppd.mnccppc.org.

Greenbelt Unplugged

We are a group engaged in facilitating in-person connections in or near Greenbelt rather than electronic interactions. The group sponsors events where there is a need, or, if some other group is already doing something that fills this need, shares that information as well. For more information, go to greenbeltunplugged.org.

Bike to Work Cancels

The planned Bike to Work day, scheduled for May 15, has been canceled. The organizers state that they will not move the event to another date in 2020 but will start planning for 2021.

Applications Due For Studio Space

The Greenbelt Recreation Artist-in-residence (ARTS) Program is now accepting applications for studio space in the Community Center. The city's ARTS program seeks to provide affordable 24-hour studio space in an atmosphere of mutual support and inspiration. This opportunity is available to artists, artisans and designers, ages 18 and up. Applications are due April 30 and new residencies will begin in July. A monthly rental fee applies.

Participants are selected for the ARTS program based on their artwork, professional qualifications and interest in community involvement. The program is open to both residents and non-residents of Greenbelt. Eight artists in residence are currently participating, sharing three subdivided, light-filled former classrooms. Current artists represent a diverse array of media, including ceramic art tile, functional pottery, assemblage, painting, sculpture and violin making.

The Community Center houses a contemporary art gallery, dance studio, television production studio, arts education classrooms and many other amenities.

The program application is available at greenbeltnmd.gov/arts. Before applying, contact Nicole DeWald at ndewald@greenbeltnmd.gov for a virtual studio tour, required of first-time applicants. There is a fee to apply.

Library Resources Online, Public Wi-Fi

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is providing access to free resources and services online 24/7 throughout the COVID-19 health emergency and while the library's branches are closed until further notice. Customers can access online library content with their library cards via pgcmls.info. The library's wide range of online resources and apps include curated content collections, such as PGCMLS Digital Suite and PGCMLS Creative Suite, and over 85 online resources for all ages. Special content is available for kids, teens and educators.

Though library branches are closed, drive-up public Wi-Fi is accessible from all library parking lots and the exterior of permanent and temporary facilities. Patrons can use Wi-Fi to check email, download eBooks or audiobooks and use online resources.

During the public health emergency, the library system is maintaining a COVID-19 webpage that shares current County Health Department guidance and highlights special temporary resources for all ages and businesses from cultural organizations, government agencies, educational institutions, healthcare providers and utilities. Explore the list of temporary resources, which is being regularly updated. The library is also promoting virtual events for all ages throughout the closure, including children's programs and health information events. Visit the Facebook page for details.

Toastmasters Meets Online Wednesdays

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club has gone virtual. Those interested in improving communication or leadership skills are invited to join online or by phone every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Toastmasters provides a fun and friendly environment, usually in person but currently online. Find details for joining in remotely at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

GCAN Meets Online

Greenbelt Climate Action Network will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 7 to 9 p.m. This month, the group will meet via Zoom. Call-in instructions will be posted on facebook.com/pg/cheersorg/events/.

Several articles about the intersection of COVID-19 and climate change will be discussed, as well as a brief video by Naomi Klein called Corona Virus and Capitalism. Meeting attendees are asked to read and watch them at home before calling in, although anyone can join the meeting. Links to the articles/videos are in the Facebook invite, as well as at cheers.org/gcan.

For more information, or for those who do not have access to Facebook, contact Lore Rosenthal at SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com or 301-345-2234.

Community Compost

The hot compost station near Springhill Lake Recreation Center is still actively collecting food scraps from current participants but in-person trainings for new members have been cancelled for the time being, including the one previously scheduled for April 4. Those interested in learning about the system that turns food scraps and wood chips into compost, and keeps food scraps from creating methane at the landfill, can still fill out the form at bit.ly/GB-Composting to be notified when in-person trainings resume or if virtual training becomes available.

Send questions to Greenbelt-NeighborhoodCompost@gmail.com.

Grant Applications Due on April 15

Applications for grants from the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) are due by midnight Wednesday, April 15. The application form and instructions on how to apply can be found at greenbeltfoundation.org.

GCF has awarded over \$225,000 in grants to groups throughout the city since 2006. It plans to award \$30,000 or more to organizations in 2020.

GATe Program Schedule Friday Apr 3 - Thursday Apr 9		
SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ <small>Comedy • 1951</small>	• Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm <small>Marjorie Main • Percy Kilbride</small>
11 am	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
12 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
1 pm	Strata	• Cultural Heritage & Archeology
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ <small>Comedy • 1951</small>	• Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm <small>Marjorie Main • Percy Kilbride</small>
5 pm	Strata	• Cultural Heritage & Archeology
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ <small>Comedy • 1951</small>	• Ma and Pa Kettle Back on the Farm <small>Marjorie Main • Percy Kilbride</small>
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Community Events • Weekly Updates
12 am		
GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION		
WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77 STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream		

Obituaries

Theodosia Shipp

Theodosia Smith Shipp, a 65-year resident of Greenbelt, died on March 23, 2020. She was 102. Known to her family as “Theo” and “Nana,” she was born in Washington, D.C., on September 15, 1917, to Abbey and Andrew Smith. Raised in an Irish Catholic family, she was the youngest of nine children and was very proud of her Irish heritage. She retired after a distinguished career at the University of Maryland. Mrs. Shipp was an active member of St. Hugh’s Catholic Church and The Ladies Order of the Elks.

Mrs. Shipp was a great role model and immensely loved by all. Her quiet, sweet and humble demeanor will be remembered and cherished. She was always thankful for the countless friends she had over the years. Her interests included dining with friends, dancing, travel and the Washington Redskins. She will be missed

by all who knew her because of her kindness, generosity, thoughtfulness, laughter, positive attitude, friendliness and compassion. A long life well lived and well loved – who could ask for more?

She was the wife of the late Thomas Shipp, whom she married in 1940, and the mother of Linda Villeneuve (deceased) and Jean Gribbin (Walter). Siblings who preceded her in death included Andrew Smith, May Harper, Christina Kay, Margarite Smith, Frances Baggett, John Smith, Edwin Smith and Walter Smith. Grandchildren include Thomas Buckner, Debbie Dorsey, David Villeneuve and Lisa Tate. Great-grandchildren include Erica Dorsey, Eddie Dorsey, Tyler Tate and Olivia and Jacob Villeneuve. Great-great-grandchildren include Kamryn, Teagan, Addyson and Noah Dorsey.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

In Memoriam

Remembering Margaret

by Kathy Gregory



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Margaret Lundregan

were raised, Margaret and Ken did a house swap of sorts, moving from Lakeside Drive back to a GHI house at 13-V Ridge, while that family moved to the Lakeside house. Some Greenbel-

ters may recall that the house at 13-V had the added “luxury” of a (flooded) bomb shelter in the back, presumably added at some point during the Cold War. It also never ceased to amaze her family that Margaret, until she stopped driving at 88, could somehow maneuver her car into the little end garage in 13 Court.

Margaret had many wonderful neighbors and friends in Greenbelt and the surrounding area. She was actively involved in St. Hugh’s parish and in St. Hugh’s School, where she sent her children, and she spent many hours

See MARGARET, page 11



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Theodosia Shipp, age 102, who died recently. She was a 65-year resident of Greenbelt and was active in St. Hugh’s Church and The Ladies Order of the Elks.

Greenbelters Bob and Mary Helen Spear, who both became ill with COVID-19 last week, continue to improve. Best wishes for their continuing recovery.

A mask-making endeavor has been set up in Greenbelt that connects those willing and able to sew masks, donate materials and run masks to facilities in need of them. See page 12 for more information.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Worship with us at Greenbelt Baptist Church



Live online services
Sundays at 10:30am
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/YouTube
101 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
301-474-4212
@GreenbeltBaptist

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.



“Justice is a powerful force. It is, above all else, the conqueror of the citadels of the hearts and souls of men, and the revealer of the secrets of the world of being, and the standard-bearer of love and bounty.”
– Bahá’í Writings

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.greenbeltbahais.org

Easter Changes Everything!

Come Discover Why at **MCF Community Church**
Sundays, 10a - 11a

Currently Meeting Online at:

MCFcc.org/online

The Bible Says...

Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you,
for I am your God
Psalm 41:10



Sunday Worship Services
10a-10:45am ONLINE
MCFcc.org/online

Greenbelt Community Church

Our Sunday Worship Services
and Wednesday Lenten
Agape Meals are Cancelled
until further notice.



Check us out on Facebook Live
Sunday at 10:30 AM
https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Glenmyce Grindstaff

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on  [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CHANGES DURING THE HEALTH EMERGENCY

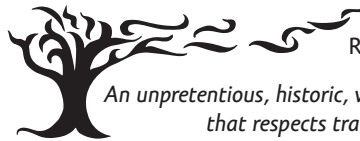
All public Masses have been cancelled.
Please check our **website** for updates
on how our parish is continuing
to serve our community.

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Christian Science Church

8300 Adelphi Road,
Hyattsville, MD



Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth
rejoice: and let men say among the nations,
“The Lord reigneth.” 1 Chron. 16

"Our services are temporarily canceled. In the meantime, if you would like to virtually attend Wednesday evening testimony meetings or Sunday services, please go to christianscience.com."

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
April 5 10 a.m.



"Is There an Emoji for That?"

Guest Preacher: Joshua Long, Music and Membership Coordinator, UU Church of Annapolis; with Susannah Schiller, Worship Associate

We are living in a time that has not been in 100 years. Science, reason, and action are never more important than a time like this. It is a time for UUs to do our part as we always have through history. However, what do we do with our feelings? What about our emotions? There is something happening internally within all of us that needs to be looked at. Let us check in with our heart centers during this online worship service. How can we be aware of our present emotions and what are they calling us to be in this moment? [Online only service Join Zoom Meeting <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/596872059> or phone in to 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 596 872 059]



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

GOVERNOR HOGAN DECLARES STAY-AT-HOME ORDER
Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan has put the state under a stay-at-home directive as coronavirus cases surpass 1,400. The stay-at-home order went into effect at 8 p.m. Monday, March 30, 2020.

The Governor said. The order is set to remain in effect until the state of emergency is over. Violations can be punished with a misdemeanor charge.

“We are no longer asking or suggesting that Marylanders stay home. We are directing them to do so,” Hogan said. People should only leave their homes for absolutely essential reasons like buying food or seeking medical care.

People are allowed to leave their homes to exercise in accordance with social distancing guidelines; go grocery shopping; go to an educational institution to pick up food; work an essential job; care for a relative or friend; care for livestock or pets; visit their own businesses for minimal operations and go to government buildings for necessary purposes. Please see the graphic below for clarification

ALL CITY EVENTS CANCELLED UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL 30, 2020. MEETINGS TO BE HELD REMOTELY

The City has cancelled all City events until at least April 30. Arrangements are being made to hold Council Meetings remotely. Boards and Committee Meetings may also be held remotely. Please check the City Calendars at www.greenbeltmd.gov

ESSENTIAL SERVICES INCLUDING POLICE, REFUSE AND RECYCLING, AND PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE CONTINUE: Greenbelt Police continue to protect the Greenbelt Community as usual. Public Works Crews have been cross-trained and reduced in size as not to have too many people working at once. Protective equipment has been put in place for these employees.


PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO BE OFFERED ONLINE
Greenbelt Recreation, Greenbelt CARES, PLANNING and other Departments are working to bring more and more services to residents online during this time. Please stay informed and visit the City’s website and Social Media sites for update information.

Your health and the health of the entire Greenbelt community is of utmost importance. Please do your part to help us flatten the curve. It is the responsibility of each and everyone of us. Thank you for your cooperation.


STATE OF EMERGENCY UPDATE: MARCH 31, 2020

Understanding Governor Hogan’s
STAY AT HOME ORDER


YOU SHOULD:




Practice social distancing while **picking up essentials**, like food and medications. No need to panic buy.



Enjoy the fresh air by taking a walk outdoors while maintaining a safe distance from others.




Stay connected with friends and loved ones via phone or video chat. Social distancing does not mean isolation.




Leave the house only when absolutely necessary, such as reporting to an essential job or seeking medical care.


YOU MAY NOT:




You may not host or attend gatherings. This order will be enforced, and violators will face penalties.



You may not gather in outdoor spaces—enjoy outdoor recreation alone or with members of your household.



You may not use public transportation unless that travel is absolutely necessary.



You may not travel for nonessential reasons. Out-of-state travelers should self-quarantine for 14 days.

BE THE HERO YOUR NEIGHBORS NEED. #STAYHOMEMARYLAND



THE 2020 CENSUS IS HAPPENING NOW

You can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Together we can ensure that our community receives the resources it needs.

Please visit 2020Census.gov

Stay Safe, Stay Informed
VISIT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/COVID19

DECLARATION OF CITY STATE OF EMERGENCY

March 30, 2020

Pursuant to the powers granted to me by the City of Greenbelt City Charter and the City of Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan, I, Nicole C. Ard, City Manager, have declared a Municipal Emergency in the City of Greenbelt due to an outbreak of a disease which constitutes an imminent threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the City and its residents.

Whereas, As of March 24, 2020, there were positive confirmed cases of Novel Coronavirus or COVID-19 in every American state and a growing number of territories and countries around the world. There were fifty-seven (57) confirmed cases in Prince George’s County, including two (2) deaths attributed to the disease. The transmission of the COVID-19 in the County and State is a threat to human health in the City of Greenbelt.

Whereas, On March 5, 2020, the Honorable Governor Larry J. Hogan, Jr., declared a state of emergency as a result of Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. Governor Hogan described a public health catastrophe, a public emergency, and an immediate danger to public safety in the State of Maryland. On March 23, 2020 Governor Hogan order additional action including closure of non-essential businesses.

Whereas, Upon the Gubernatorial order, pursuant to the City of Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan adopted by City Council, the City of Greenbelt automatically entered into a State of Emergency which allowed the City Manager to continue to conduct activities necessary to support the Prince George’s County Health and Emergency Management officials who are leading the local response to the international pandemic as well as ensure continuity of City government. City staff continued to coordinate these activities in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and County Health guidance, as well as Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks’s emergency declaration for Prince George’s County, within which Greenbelt is located. Per the adopted City emergency plan, like the gubernatorial impact, the Executive’s declaration also created an additional state of emergency. The City Manager continued emergency response activities to comply with State and County orders and emerging Federal, State, and County health and emergency operations guidance. President Donald J. Trump issued an executive order declaring a FEMA Disaster Declaration Number COVID-19 (EM-3430) on March 13, 2020, thus triggering a similar Federal state of emergency per the adopted plan.

Whereas, Pursuant to prior verbal and written daily correspondence to City Council, the City Manager is authorized to declare a City State of Emergency per the Council approved emergency plan. The City of Greenbelt emergency declaration is to address anticipated financial aspects of this unprecedented emergency.

Whereas, The Charter and City Code outline the City Manager’s appointed, non-partisan, apolitical role in overseeing City government, implementing City laws and ordinances, including but not limited to Budget, Public Safety (Police and Fire), Laws, Personnel, Streets, Parks, Traffic and Refuse. The City Manager serves as conservator of the peace.

Whereas, According to Charter Sec. 40. Purchases, the City Manager controls the purchase, storage and distribution of all supplies, materials, equipment, and contractual services required by City government, with exemption or waiver of competition bid procedures in the best interest of the City or the Council determines an emergency exists. This includes a \$10,000 threshold for competitive bid process. As effected in the emergency plan adopted by Council, an emergency exists (1937, Ch. 532, Section 38; Ord. No 423, 5-20-60; Char. Am. Res. No 1969-2, 7-8-69; Char. Am. Res. No 274, Section 3-18-74; Char. Am. Res. No 1985-1, Section 1, 1-7-85, Greenbelt Emergency Preparedness and Operations Plan, 2002). Sec. 52, Emergency Appropriations, are to meet public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace are within the realm of budget amendments made after adoption and are addressed under Charter Sec. 52 Emergency Appropriations and c) Transfer of appropriations at any time during the fiscal year may transfer part of all of any unencumbered appropriation balance among programs within a department or agency and the council may by resolution transfer part of all of any unencumbered appropriation balance from one (1) department, office or agency. The City traditionally conducts budget amendments after the fiscal year ends, in July or August. However, the emergency may require the government body to consider such matters virtually in a public setting retroactively.

Whereas, It is for that reason, prior to this City declaration, I authorized actions to keep the community safe and to assist with limiting the spread of the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19. Now, therefore, by the power vested in me by the State of Maryland, the Charter and City Code of Greenbelt, Maryland, be it so declared:

The City will continue to evaluate environmental conditions given the evolving Federal, State, and County guidance on the nature of COVID-19, emerging information and guidance, with little certainty regarding the length of this pandemic emergency, the City anticipates continued virtual emergency operations and teleworking to plan and respond to a long-term emergency that will require additional resources beyond the City’s capacity. The City will continue to encourage individuals to observe all necessary health precautions to prevent and or reduce the potential of spreading COVID-19.

Upon enactment of the City emergency declaration, as authorized by the Council, the City Manager and the City staff will continue to act in a responsible, reasonable, efficient and lawful manner for public health, safety, and welfare with continued communication with Council, staff and the public.

ADOPTED by the City Manager of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, March 26, 2020.
Nicole Ard, City Manager

Puede ver este documento en español en www.greenbeltmd.gov/covid19

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: **Arts Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee**
For more information call 301- 474-8000

Stay in touch with the City of Greenbelt.
Follow us on Facebook @cityofgreenbeltand Twitter

Quality Health Care Right in Your Neighborhood

Same-Day Appointments • Most Insurances Accepted

Doctors Community Health System is dedicated to helping you maintain and improve your health. Our network of care has offices at convenient locations.

Doctors Community Practices at Bowie
(Primary Care)
4000 Mitchellville Road, Suites B216 and 422
Bowie, Maryland 20716
301-327-0206 and 301-327-0247

Doctors Community Practices at Crofton
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
2191 Defense Highway, Suite 201
Crofton, Maryland 21114
410-305-9622

Doctors Community Practices at District Heights
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
6400 Marlboro Pike
District Heights, Maryland 20747
301-327-0953

Doctors Community Practices at Laurel
(Primary Care and Diabetes Care)
13900 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland 20707
301-276-7396

Doctors Community Practices at Riverdale
(Primary Care, Family Medicine and Endocrinology)
6502 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 100
Riverdale, Maryland 20737
301-278-8637

Doctors Community Practices at Temple Hills
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
5859 Allentown Way
Temple Hills, Maryland 20728
240-273-4826

Metropolitan Medical Specialists
(Primary Care and Family Medicine)
8116 Good Luck Road, Suite 300
Lanham, Maryland 20706
240-283-7158

Health and Wellness Center
(Urgent Care Inside Safeway)
4101 Northview Drive
Bowie, Maryland 20716
301-284-0850

Our experienced and compassionate team will also support your overall health goals by streamlining your access to additional Doctors Community Health System programs: breast health, digestive disease care, orthopedic services, surgical services, diabetes care and many others.

Schedule an appointment today. Also, visit us at DCHweb.org.



Time Bank Provides Support During COVID-19 Pandemic

by Erica Ginsberg



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT TIME BANK

Some Greenbelt Time Bank members enjoy a virtual tea together.

March 23 marked International Time Banking Day. While it doesn't feel like a time to be celebrating in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, communities with time banks are at an advantage. Greenbelt is lucky to be one of those communities.

For those not familiar with the concept of a time bank, it is a way for members of a community to offer services to each other and receive time credit for each hour of service. Credits can be spent on receiving services from other members. An hour of service equals one hour of time credit regardless of what service a member provides or accepts. No money changes hands and it is free to join. Greenbelt's Time Bank has been in operation since 2013 and currently counts 231 members.

While it is a means for people to use their time and talents to help neighbors and get their own needs met, the underlying purpose of the Greenbelt Time Bank is to build a stronger community. In addition to providing a platform for community members to trade services, the Greenbelt Time Bank has also sponsored social gatherings across Greenbelt that are open to the community, whether or not they are or want to be a member of the Time Bank. In February, a group of Time Bankers gathered to celebrate Mardi Gras together at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. During this time of social distancing, those get-togethers have adapted to become virtual teas.

Members of the Greenbelt Time Bank have also been instrumental in supporting other community efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Greenbelt Mutual Aid Group. This centralized Google spreadsheet offers a variety of resources, including lists of health care facilities doing tests, places to access food pantries, local businesses that are open, closed or

have adjusted hours, and neighbors able to help neighbors similar to the Time Bank, but for the broader Greenbelt community.

For those who are already members of the Greenbelt Time Bank, a few potential offerings that can incorporate social distancing include:

Picking up groceries or prescriptions for someone who is in a higher risk group or who is in quarantine

Offering a service through teleconference, such as foreign language conversational practice, an exercise class, a meditation session, tutoring for kids while schools are closed, or gardening advice

Reviewing resumes and cover letters for those who may need to find new jobs

Serving as an editor or giving feedback to someone who is using this time to write the Great American Novel

Painting a portrait of another member or a member's relative or pet from a photo

For those who are intrigued and want to join the Greenbelt Time Bank, membership is open to anyone who lives, works or plays in Greenbelt. The Time Bank is taking applications and working to transition its training sessions to a virtual format.

The Greenbelt Time Bank is co-sponsoring another Virtual Tea on Thursday, April 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. This is open to all. In addition to fostering social connection, the tea will include a discussion of the film *Fantastic Fungi* which is available to watch in advance on Vimeo.

Learn more about the Greenbelt Time Bank at greenbeltimebank.org.

Learn more about the Greenbelt Mutual Aid Group at tinyurl.com/greenbeltmutualaid.

Learn more about the April 2 Virtual Tea at tinyurl.com/gtbvirtualtea.

Erica Ginsberg is a member of the Greenbelt Time Bank.



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

A daffodil blooms in Greenbelt East.



County Approves Beltway Plaza Mixed-use Redevelopment Plan

by Michelle Siegel

Beltway Plaza Meets Apocalypse

Even after society comes out of the COVID-19 pandemic, Beltway Plaza, which previously managed to weather through the Great Recession of the late 2000s and early 2010s, may be required to make some major changes if it is to overcome the ongoing collapse of the nation's shopping mall industry.

Malls across America have been struggling since well before the novel coronavirus outbreak. According to a report from professional services network Deloitte, in-mall shopping decreased 7.6 percent in 2018 year-over-year. This decline has been devastating for malls, with financial services company Credit Suisse forecasting in 2017 that 20 to 25 percent of American malls would close within five years.

Though popular assumption puts the blame on Amazon and other online shopping hotspots, SiteWorks Retail Real Estate Services President Nick Egelanian argues that the downfall of malls in America has far more to do with the reckless development and expansion of malls in the mid-1900s – an era which could not have foreseen the rise of strip centers, populated by “category killer” stores that specialize in discount sales of a particular category of merchandise.

“Pretty much every department that was in a department store now has an equivalent strip center store,” Egelanian said. “All the way from the obvious things, like linens, and electronics, and toys, you know, with Toys “R” Us, and Bed Bath & Beyond, and Best Buy – but also, things not so obvious – card stores, bridal stores ... so, there was a complete deconstruction of the department store model.”

According to Egelanian, though most of the malls that remain open today cannot expect to operate “as the kind of centers they were,” the properties themselves still have futures, so long as their managers take the appropriate measures to evolve with the times.

“The very nature of shopping has changed, but good real estate is generally good real estate,” Egelanian said. “Most of these were built on very good roads at very good intersections with high traffic, and so while they might not have use for the uses they were originally built for, most of them will have very productive uses in the future.”

- Michelle Siegel

The Beltway Plaza Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (PPS), which outlines a plan to transform Beltway Plaza Mall into a mixed-use development containing both residential units and retail space, was approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board on February 20, after a 5-2 vote of support from the Greenbelt City Council at their regular meeting on February 10.

“We believe that in order to ensure that the retail at Beltway Plaza remains vibrant, dynamic and durable for the future, we must add customers right on the property,” said Quantum Companies General Counsel Marc Kapastin.

Councilmembers Judith Davis, Emmett Jordan, Leta Mach, Silke Pope and Edward Putens voted in support of the plan and its attached staff conditions on February 10.

“If nothing is done, and this mall and its property is not redeveloped, it will be a dead strip mall in the not so far future, and that would be devastating for our city and our residents,” Pope said in an email.

Councilmember Rodney

Roberts and Mayor Colin Byrd voted against supporting the PPS. Throughout the meeting, Roberts stressed that the inadequacies he saw in the PPS were not sufficiently addressed by the attached staff conditions.

Byrd was relatively quiet at the meeting, but readily voiced his opinions on the PPS in an email.

“The bottom line is, if this development happens, it's going to cost the public sector money to serve these new Greenbelt families,” he wrote. “And, if the developers aren't going to give the city and the county the resources to do that, I'll probably remain opposed to the project.”

Next up for the Beltway Plaza redevelopment is a Detailed Site Plan, which will elaborate on plans for housing types and internal road systems.

“We're more than a shopping center,” Kapastin said. “That's one of the themes that we're going to pursue over the next several months, just to let everybody understand that Beltway Plaza is a community center as well as a retail center – an amenity for the community.”

Greenbelt



Supermarket Pharmacy

The Co-op Weekly ad circular you expected to find inserted in this issue is being discontinued until our grocery suppliers are able to resume normal deliveries.

The COVID-19 outbreak continues to be a rapidly changing situation, we are working closely with our federal, state and local and public health officials to make adjustments in our operations to ensure the safety of our customers and employees.

- Senior & Vulnerable Shopper Hours—M/W/F Groceries 7—9 am • Pharmacy 8—9 am
- Practice Social Distancing—2 Carts = 6 Feet
- Reusable Bag Policy—In an effort to protect the health of our employees all groceries must be packed in Co-op's single use plastic or paper bags. **DO NOT BRING REUSABLE BAGS FROM HOME.**
- Consumer Pricing—While the cost of doing business may go up as labor and product demand increase, we promise to maintain the same pricing structure we always have, and keep prices as low as possible.
- Co-op Supermarket is hiring experienced part-time cashiers, stockers, sanitation/cleaning staff. Visit the store for applications or www.greenbelt.coop.

We **THANK YOU** for your business during this challenging time.

COMMUNITY OWNED AND OPERATED

Health Benefit Deadline Extended

The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange has extended until June 15 the special enrollment period that began in mid-March to help uninsured Marylanders during the State of Emergency for Coronavirus (COVID-19) declared by Gov. Larry Hogan. Uninsured Marylanders may enroll through the state's health insurance marketplace, MarylandHealthConnection.gov. Free consumer assistance is available by calling 1-855-642-8572 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

SCHOOLS continued from page 1

exams. [PGCPS] will make sure that every student has access to the requisite technology – computer, tablet or smartphone – to complete these important exams. Many of our schools also host International Baccalaureate programs, known as IB. Those exams, also scheduled for May, are now cancelled. Students will not need to take the exam to receive an IB diploma or certificate of completion.” The MCAP, a set of tests given to third grade through high school students, “will not be given this spring nor be required for graduation.”

Goldson announced that, because of extra hard work from building maintenance and central garage staff members, all buildings and buses have been cleaned and disinfected according to the best practices set out by the Centers for Disease Control.

In terms of special technology being used at this time, Goldson reported that, while teachers may be using technology and other innovative methods to stay connected to students, “they are not required to do so during this emergency school closure.” PGCPS has provided student enrichment activity packets, remote instruction, and arts and culture resources. “We will continue to provide resources utilizing every available tool: our website, e-blasts, text messages, social media channels and PGCPS-TV (Verizon 38 / Xfinity 96). Please continue to visit pgcps.org/coronavirus for the latest updates and information,” Goldson added.

To ensure continuity of instruction, the school system has surveyed students to assess technology access, determined where there are gaps in technology and has plans to get devices to students, possibly helping cover broadband costs. In addition, Wi-Fi access will be available at designated schools beginning on Tuesday, April 14, for anyone with a PGCPS email account. Because there are some students who do not currently have the necessary computer equipment or internet access, students unable to submit work will not be penalized for missing assignments. Although the quarter ended March 30, students have until April 3 to submit completed assignments. Missing assignments from students without internet access will be considered exempt and will not count toward quarter grades. Regarding ERHS assignments, McNeill stated, “The staff at ERHS is working to make sure that assignments are given to students and teachers are available during normal work hours to answer questions. We are trying to strike a balance between keeping students engaged and not overwhelming them. I encourage students to stay engaged and attempt to complete the assignments in a timely manner.”

Greenbelters React

Two Greenbelt mothers with students in local schools gave their reactions to how school closures have affected their families. Amanda Larsen has four children, ranging from preschool to high school. She stated that, for her family, “home learning has gone remarkably well. We occasionally have a few more people who need computer access than we can accommodate at a time, but it really hasn’t been a problem. The kids have all been self-driven and have finished their

assigned work without a problem.” Larsen stated, “For my middle and high schoolers, most of their teachers already had an online platform in place before this happened and they have just increased the amount of work posted on that platform.”

Larsen’s middle schooler had some teachers who were not already set up for online work. For those classes, a packet was provided that was intended to include enough work to last for two weeks. Larsen’s elementary schooler was given worksheets along with a reading textbook. Larsen stated, “He has a Zoom meeting with his teacher and class scheduled for tomorrow. That will be exciting for him! I appreciate how his teacher has checked in with families periodically without adding more schoolwork.”

Larsen’s preschooler attends Mom’s Morning Out, a preschool program offered by Greenbelt Recreation, where teacher Gaye Houchens provided a useful packet of work. Larsen appreciated that Houchens “sent out lots of ideas for online learning and play. We received the packet on the same day that we were making schoolwork schedules with the other kids. Ms. Gaye always goes above and beyond to make her students feel special.”

Ingrid Cowan Hass has two children who are working from home, and said, “Our schedule is upended, and I am finding it difficult to get anything done for our work while the kids are at home. I’m now wearing the hat of teacher and have extra cooking and cleaning. There is always a new app to organize, a new screen time to include in the day. I’m not thrilled about all the screen time.”

On the plus side, Hass reported, “We have enjoyed extra time outside and [my daughter] and I are going on nature walks almost every day. We often take a sketch pad and learn about local plants and trees. The weather is beautiful this time of year! Both kids are putting in more music practice, which is great, but their group activities are lacking, like band and orchestra.” Music groups are challenged because most distance learning software is not set up to compensate for different lag times among participants who are trying to perform together in unison.

Some material for this article is drawn from a PGCP press release.



JC Landscaping

- Fall Flowers* mums* pansies etc.
- New Lawns* seeding* sod
- Planting of ornamental trees and shrubs
- Fall cleanup - leaves - cutting back perennials, removal of trees and limbs.
- Create new beds* raise beds with topsoil*
- Plant ornamental trees and shrubs etc.
- Free Estimates 301-742-0364

PGCPS Shift to Online Learning

by Brogan Gerhart

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) will remain closed through Friday, April 24, in accordance with the announcement from State Superintendent Dr. Karen Salmon.

From Monday, April 6 to Monday, April 13, PGCPS students will have one week of spring break for staff to begin phase one of the Continuity of Learning Program, according to PGCPS Chief Executive Officer Monica Goldson. All schools and offices will be closed on Thursday, April 9; Friday, April 10 and Monday, April 13.

During phase one, staff will submit third quarter grades, begin setting up virtual classrooms, distribute laptops to those in need, and connect with students and staff on the online learning platforms. During phase two, Goldson said educators will deliver virtual lessons and provide virtual support for students in need of assistance.

Online instruction will begin Tuesday, April 14 and is scheduled to continue through Friday, April 24, according to Goldson. Families were notified that daily learning will not be equivalent to a six-hour day but will maintain key aspects of the classroom, including collaboration and daily lessons.

Access to Technology

Chromebook distribution for students in need of a device will be held Wednesday, April 1 through Friday, April 3, at students’ schools in the parking lot from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., according to Goldson.

In order to receive a device, recipients must bring a parent ID, student report card and an ink pen to complete the appropriate forms. Families who completed an online access survey prior to pick-up or communicated their needs to teachers and administrators will receive priority distribution.

According to Goldson, the online access survey can be completed on the PGCPS website. For more information on the survey, please contact at T3@pgcps.org.

Information will also be placed on each school’s web page and parents will receive a robo-call with specific dates for pick-up. If there is inclement weather, parents or students can check the PGCPS website and PGCPS-TV (Verizon 38/Xfinity 96) for a new distribution date.

The district will also be providing internet access via Wi-Fi at designated schools.

Grading Periods

According to Goldson, Monday, March 30 will remain the end of the third quarter. From Monday, March 30 through Friday, April 3, students will be allowed to electronically submit any work assigned or expected to be turned in during the two-week closure.

Students who are unable to submit assignments electronically will not be penalized. Any work identified by the teacher as enrichment during the two-week closure will not be graded.

Fourth quarter will begin Tuesday, April 14. Students will earn a Pass (P) or Incomplete (I) grade at the conclusion of the quarter, Goldson said. Final grades will represent a letter grade from the first three quarters and an explanation included on all transcripts that fourth-quarter grades were earned remotely.

Content Schedules

Monday through Thursday, elementary school students will participate in two 30- to 45-minute virtual lessons — mathematics and science or reading and social studies — between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All academic assignments will be due on Friday. On Fridays, students will participate in a rotation of elective courses including art, physical education, music and health. Elective assignments will be due one week after being posted. Recorded lessons will be available on Google Classroom and printed materials will be available for pick up at student meal sites.

The description for online middle and high school classes provided by Goldson continues to say: Middle and high school stu-

dents will experience one 30- to 45-minute virtual lesson — English, mathematics, science or social studies — between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m, Mondays through Thursdays. Two assignments will be given for each lesson and all assignments are due two days after the lesson. Fridays are reserved for elective courses. Middle schools will have a rotating schedule of electives while all high school elective classes will meet every Friday. All elective assignments are due one week after the assignment is posted. Lessons will be recorded and posted in Google Classroom and printed materials will be available for pick up at student meal sites.

At all grade levels, co-taught classrooms, the ESOL and/or Special Education teacher will be present on Google Classroom as a co-teacher.

For more information, families and students can visit the PGCPS website at pgcps.org.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size.

CO-OP Taking Precautions

Paid advertisement.

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union SOCIAL DISTANCING / NEW BUSINESS HOURS until further notice

Due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic and our state Governor's recommendations, our business hours have been modified.

The branch will be **closed to members on Tuesdays and Thursdays**; you may call to schedule an appointment for loan closings or new account openings. The branch will be open on Mondays and Wednesdays normal business hours, and on Fridays from 9am to 5pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Please remember Social Distancing to keep yourself and our staff safe.

We encourage our members to utilize our electronic services as much as possible. This includes **online banking w/bill pay, visiting our atm to make deposits and withdrawals, and using our mobile app to check your balance**. If you need assistance signing up or using these services please contact us and our staff will be happy to help you.

Thank you for your membership



Greenbelt FCU

Beauchamp Scholarship Has Donation Processing Delay

by Brogan Gerhart

All recent donations made to the University of Maryland Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship Fund will experience a “serious lag” in being processed by the university due to usual spring break processing delays compounded by coronavirus telework arrangements, according to Norah Quinn McCormick, assistant director of development for the College of Arts and Humanities at UMD.

For the month of March, the Greenbelt News Review has been matching donations, up to \$5,000, made to the Beauchamp Scholarship to honor longtime member of the News Review and advocate for the community, Virginia Beauchamp.

According to Quinn McCormick, the total amount of gifts the university is aware of, as of March 26, is \$1,915, though she expects that the total is higher. For any donations that have not been processed yet, she said, “I am staying hopeful that we will begin to see these gifts in our system.”

The News Review’s Mary Lou



PHOTO BY MARIA DEL MAR LOPEZ

Virginia Beauchamp is named Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen in 2002.

Williamson said that, although there is a slowness of seeing results, the community should stay tuned. With the News Review matching all of the donations posted and pending thus far, \$3,830 has been raised to endow the Beauchamp Scholarship.

This means that \$18,830 of the \$25,000 endowment goal has been reached. Once endowed, the Beauchamp Scholarship will live in perpetuity to support generations of students. The fund must reach \$25,000 by June 30,

2021, to become an endowed scholarship.

The scholarship has provided annual need-based awards of \$750 since its conception in 2016 for graduate students in the Department of Women’s Studies, which Beauchamp founded in 1975. The scholarship has the potential to grow to \$1,000 a year once endowed, according to Quinn McCormick.

Although some delay exists in seeing donations made to the Beauchamp Scholarship, the News Review staff want to thank those who have donated, keep readers updated on the scholarship’s growth and call on other members of the community to honor their fellow Greenbelter with any gift they can offer.

For more information on Virginia Beauchamp’s life and the impact of her scholarship for students in the Department of Women’s Studies at UMD., refer to March 2020 issues of the News Review. To donate, contact Quinn McCormick at 301-405-6485 or naquinn@umd.edu.

STRATEGIES continued from page 1

available, including Move This Story, a series for young children led by dance instructor Angella Foster, and an online version of Gaye Houchens’ Mom’s Morning Out. In development are short tutorials and activities, as well as interactive weekly classes utilizing video-conferencing. The recreation department plans to provide virtual spaces for several non-instructional programs, as well as new versions of special events, starting with the Egg Hunt. “Keep an eye out for some entirely new programs as well,” said Varda.

Varda explained that “in many ways the recreation department is the backbone of the community. We are striving to bring the community together.” He hopes that these virtual programs will provide activities that bring families together.

Palau said that Greenbelt CARES has made sure that people have access to mental health and counseling services and that the city would like to provide alternative programs for all populations.

Palau emphasized that GAIL is still committed to services for seniors. Its meal programs are operating with some changes. Residents can see what’s available on the city’s website and social media sites. She also pointed out that “the school system is working with parents and teachers to provide online programs.”

Summer camp registrations are still being taken. Said Palau, “if the situation changes by the time camps are to start, then the city will hold the camps as usual.”

Palau said the city is working diligently to bring new options to all and that new programs will be rolled out as they are developed.

The city has activated its Emergency Operation Plan in response to the pandemic, something it has done in the past,

e.g. after 9/11 and in threatening weather situations. Yet, said Palau, “a crisis of this magnitude has not happened in the past.” She said, “the city is well-connected and prepared to lead the community through this crisis.” April 30 is the current end date for the precautions, but that could change with changing circumstances.

Palau noted that public safety is paramount, and that “if we all work together we strongly believe that we can lessen the effect of this virus on our community.” Crucial steps toward this include: staying informed; stringent hand cleanliness; reducing unnecessary exposure; choosing activities focused on home and small groups; isolated outings like walks; fre-

quent check-ins with family and friends; and most importantly, social distancing.

Residents can see program updates by referring to greenbeltnmd.gov/covid19 as well as a listing of virtual activities at greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation. CARES can be reached at cares@greenbeltnmd.gov and GAIL can be reached at cbatey@greenbeltnmd.gov; both groups can be reached by phone at 301-345-6660. For information on tutoring resources led by Judy Hering, contact jhering@greenbeltnmd.gov. Greenbelt Recreation can also be followed on Facebook and the city and community calendars, available on the city’s homepage, greenbeltnmd.gov.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA CUMMINGS

A bald eagle perches in a tree overlooking the Lake.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Shooting

March 23, 6:18 p.m., 400 block Ridge Road. Officers responded to a report of a possible shooting and found a woman in a vehicle with a gunshot wound to her upper body. She was transported to UM Prince George’s Hospital Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. At this time detectives are investigating this as a possible accidental or self-inflicted incident.

Robbery

March 19, 11:30 a.m., 7816 Hanover Parkway. A man arranged to sell a video game player to another man and to meet in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway to complete the transaction. When they met, the buyer punched the seller, took the video game player and fled on foot. The buyer is known to the seller and the investigation is ongoing.

Suspicious Person

March 19, 4:12 p.m., 7200 block Hanover Drive. A woman attended a party at Willy K’s Bar and Restaurant on March 12 and during the event she noticed a man staring at her. He eventu-

ally made his way next to her. She believes that he may have tampered with her drink. As she drove home, she began to feel dizzy and had to pull over and get a friend to drive her home. She also observed a white vehicle that appeared to have been following behind her.

Vandalism

March 21, 9:50 a.m., 9328 Edmonston Road. The kitchen window of a residence was broken out.

Burglary

March 23, 8:54 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. Several pairs of sneakers were taken after the front door of a residence was forced open.

Vehicle Crime

March 20, 6000 block Cherrywood Court. A red 2003 Jeep Liberty with Maryland tags 2CY1275 was stolen.

March 24, 6900 block Hanover Parkway. A black 2014 Kawasaki motorcycle with California tag 21X6859 was stolen.

March 24, 7 Court Southway. Two tires were cut.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

It is spring again and time for the wood ducks to visit and breed. Here are two at a pond at the Lakecrest Drive end of Buddy Attick Park.



Respond your way to the 2020 Census.

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding. All of them are easy!

 Online  By Phone  By Mail

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will be invited to respond online—even on your mobile device. The online form is available in many different languages. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV for more information about responding online.

2020CENSUS.GOV  

Census data impacts funding for things like:

- Education programs and grants
- Public transportation
- Medicare and Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

- Libraries
- Community centers
- School meal programs
- Parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities

For more information, visit: 2020CENSUS.GOV

COPING continued from page 1

to the school. “We are spending much time together. We don’t have fear, but we do have respect for the facts.” Fourteen-year-old son Reuben Abashe, a 10th grader at Eleanor Roosevelt, was less philosophical. “I miss my friends. I miss sports. I miss computer, even tutoring.” Debbie Abashe, a student at Springhill Lake Elementary, chimed in from the backseat that it was terrible news not seeing her friends and they have created a group chat.

Frontline workers include fast food workers too. Franklin Park resident Michelle had the promise of a new job which included job training and career potential. She gave notice at her retail position and then coronavirus interrupted that promise. The retail store was non-essential and closed. Former job experience in fast food came to the rescue and she got a job at a fast food chicken restaurant. “Surprisingly, it’s pretty much business as usual, no real slowdown. We already wear gloves and head coverings, but in that environment, we can’t avoid close contact with our fellow workers. We just hope they

don’t come in sick.”

“What you need to write about, is how Metro is making it harder for wage workers to get to work,” she challenged. Metrobus 89 takes her directly to her job. One morning, waiting with a knot of other commuters, she checked for the next expected arrival time. Metro had suspended service. No notice. No sign posted. Nothing. This forced Michelle to Uber to work. “My transportation costs have gone from \$4 per day to \$20 per day. I have to work two hours before I break even.”

Often populated by younger workers, for some of whom fast food employment is not a lifeline, managers overbook staffing. Michelle explains that, “If everyone shows up, the labor costs become too high and workers are forced to take an unpaid 60-minute break instead of an [unpaid] 30-minute break.” She points out, “That’s more money out of my pocket. I understand it from a management point of view, but from a worker’s point of view...” and her voice trails off.

“Tough times make tough people” the wall hangings remind us.



A wild turkey takes a stroll through Franklin Park.

PHOTO BY DENNIS KEVARI

visit
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

PAINTING continued from page 1

to move it forward for further consideration. In accordance with established procedures, staff is now inviting input from Greenbelt citizens and from the staff in several departments who work at the Municipal Building. The board will consider all input in making a recommendation to the Greenbelt City Council as to whether the gift should be accepted as proposed. Karlson’s terms include a request for limited reimbursement of supply costs.

While the generosity of all potential gifts is appreciated, the board recognizes that not all artwork is suitable for public collection and display. Many factors need to be considered such as quality, suitability for a broad audience, physical durability, installation requirements and potential conservation needs and costs over time.

Karlson paints in a direct, intuitive manner that is reflected in the dynamics of the finished work. For this reason, preliminary sketches will not be available for the piece she would like to donate. However, many of her existing paintings can be seen online at kathykarlson.com. Her work is colorful and non-representational. The piece proposed for the city would be created with acrylic paint on canvas. The overall scale is expected to be about 4’ wide by 8’ tall, and the piece may be comprised of one or multiple panels.

Karlson’s proposal is available at greenbeltnmd.gov/arts. Public comments are welcome through April 30. Residents are invited to email their input to Nicole DeWald, city arts supervisor, at ndewald@greenbeltnmd.gov or comment on Facebook at Greenbelt Recreation ARTS.

MARGARET continued from page 4

watching her children and grandchildren engaging in sports of all kinds, from Little League and CYO to Greenbelt Recreation adult co-ed softball, in which she was known to play now and again. She was a fun-loving soul who enjoyed singing, dancing and playing cards, and she could be seen for many years walking around the lake and all over Greenbelt. Her greatest joy in

life was undoubtedly her family, and she spent countless hours with her seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews, watching them grow and offering endless support. She will likely be remembered by all who knew her for her unfailing warmth and that ever-present, radiant smile. Margaret Lundregan is and always will be dearly missed.



Maryland Department of the Environment

Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repair Inc.

159 Centerway Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-982-2582
www.greenbeltautoandtruck.com

A.S.E. Master Certified Technicians

A complete service facility equipped to perform all service requirements that your manufacturer recommends to comply with Preventive Maintenance service schedules & extended warranty programs! Also, routine repairs that keep your vehicles operating safely and reliably.

Auto-body, collision repairs and theft recovery damage
A.S.E. Certified Technicians,
Insurance Claims Welcome.
Free estimates, please call for appointment



Let's Clear The Air



COMING SOON



SOLD
7325 RADCLIFFE



SOLD
8F SOUTHWAY



SOLD
14B RIDGE RD



UNDER CONTRACT
13H HILLSIDE



UNDER CONTRACT
1 ORANGE CT



UNDER CONTRACT
2J EASTWAY

WHAT ARE COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR REAL ESTATE??

Housing is still considered “Essential” as a service. Freedom Realty will continue to serve the community, however, we are mandating Company Policies to protect our Clients, Colleagues, & Vendors.



Sarah V. Liska
Real Estate Broker
Owner of Freedom Realty
Phone: 301.385.0523
Sarah@freedomrealtyhomes.com



FREEDOM REALTY



Susan Barker
Realtor
Freedom Realty
Phone: 301.675.1873
Susan@freedomrealtyhomes.com

Realty 1, Inc.

Our 33rd Year in Greenbelt

301 982-0044

R1MD.com

Linda Ivy 301-675-0585
Mark Riley 301-792-3638
H. Dwayne Taylor - 301-323-8384

Leonard Wallace - Broker
301-675-9036

The Leader in
Greenbelt Real Estate



Lakeside Subdivision Enormous 3BR/2.5BA 2-story rambler w/**GARAGE!** Finished lower level with family room & office. Remodeled kit. on main level.

Westchester Park 2 Br / 2Ba condominium with balcony & amazing views of Greenbelt Park. Remodeled throughout, lots of closets and storage. Nice!

3 Bedroom Townhome Refinished Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands. Priced to sell at \$149,900.

Rambler on large lot 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on large wooded lot with parking, 5th floor Hardwood flooring and brick fireplace on main level.

2 Bedroom Townhome Priced to sell! Modern tub surround in bathroom. Upgraded cabs. & dishwasher in kit. Separate laundry area. \$124,900

Need to reach us right away?
Text 'Greenbelt' to 88000 on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.

Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.



Single Level Living Lower level 1-bedroom GHI townhome - no stairs! Large wood deck in fenced backyard provides plenty of room for entertaining.

Rancher 4 br, 3 ba home with 2-car garage, 2nd floor full finished basement, 2nd floor hardwood flooring, remodeled kitchen & more. \$349,000

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Townhome w/Garage 2 br home in the heart of Greenbelt. Large 11' x 17' master br. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters. Shaded backyard w/patio.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen w/passthru & pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

One Acre Lot Potential for up to 4 separate dwellings. 2-3 br rambler with 3br. Basement has been professionally waterproofed. \$399,900

Greenbelt Condominium Remodeled 2 br cond. with modern kitchen & extra cabinets. Full finished 1st floor-round use. Remodeled ceramic-tiled bath.

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Greenbriar 2 Bedroom, 2 Greenbelt Condominium. New carpeting and laminate flooring. New Owners looking for cash buyers at \$129,900.

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

Woodland Hills Porch Treat: Paseo and Gardner Concert

by Lesley Kash



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA CUMMINGS

The Gardner family plays an impromptu concert just prior to the Shelter in Place order. Standing at back, from left, Elizabeth, David and Jon. Seated from left, Rebecca and Anne.

Neighboring residents of Woodland Hills enjoyed the opportunity on a warm Monday evening, March 30, for a community (but socially distanced) twilight stroll, serenaded by local favorites, the Gardner family band, Transatlantic Crossing, who performed from their front porch.

Remote toasting, polite pooches, adorable stroller occupants, waltzing in the street and even a mid-concert Amazon delivery made the outing memorable. Whether ambling around the block or just waving from patio chairs and chatting with passers-by, many house-weary neighbors enjoyed this moveable feast of non-screen socializing.



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Jay and Cindy Cummings trip the light fantastic.



PHOTO BY SUSIE REED-MCCULLOUGH

A Thank You to frontline workers and others is chalked in a cul-de-sac in Greenbelt.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Teddy bears are appearing in windows, as some neighborhoods organize bear hunts for stir-crazy kids.

COVID-19: Do Homemade Face Masks Protect Wearers?

by Cathie Meetre

This article reports on activities by Greenbelt residents and references research performed by others. It should not be construed as offering medical advice or in any way supporting, sanctioning or recommending an approach.

Greenbelt resident Sally Davies, whose paintings have been displayed in many local venues, and her husband, Derrick Early, have been researching homemade surgical masks and their effectiveness against coronavirus. With masks unobtainable commercially, they wondered whether a homemade mask would be of any use. They aren't alone in this quest either today or in the past.

The topic came up in 2006 in the aftermath of the SARS outbreak – which, though petering out before spreading worldwide like COVID-19, sparked research on what individuals can do to protect themselves against viruses, given that professional products are likely in short supply during such times and likely unavailable to certain populations. The research (see [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24229526](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24229526)) examined the use of materials readily available in the home that can be fashioned into masks using a sewing machine, concluding that the homemade masks were better than no mask at all, though not in the same league as commercially available products.

Mask Factors

Factors in effective surgical mask design include the material used and its effectiveness in catching tiny particles the size of viruses, the fit of the mask against the face so air doesn't leak around the side, and breathability – how easy it is to breathe with the mask. Breathability is an issue in two ways: how likely the wearer is to keep it on without feeling claustrophobic or stifled and how likely the air they receive is coming through the filter and not leaking in around the edges because the user must breathe so hard to get air through the filter.

One study shows cotton T-shirt fabric or cotton dish towels as the top performing household materials tested. There are also sewing patterns and instructions available on the internet. But there are no data to indicate how effective a particular material and a particular pattern would be combined.

CDC Position

The latest guidance from CDC states that, "In settings where facemasks are not available, HCP (Health Care Personnel) might use homemade masks (e.g., bandana, scarf) for care of patients with COVID-19 as a last resort. However, homemade masks are not considered PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), since their capability to protect HCP is unknown. Caution should be exercised when considering this option." CDC goes on to recommend that "homemade masks should ideally be used in combination with a face shield that covers the entire front (that extends to the chin or below) and sides of the face." Interestingly, this CDC report mentions 'scarf' which was the potential home-available filtration fabric that



PHOTO BY DERRICK EARLY

From left, Sally Davies, Piper and Derrick Early model their cheerful homemade masks.

scored lowest in the study referenced earlier.

1918 Experience

In the 1918 influenza epidemic, it was common that people made their own masks from materials at hand. Unfortunately, epidemiologists and historians eventually suggested that this may have made matters worse by inducing a feeling of invulnerability in those wearing the masks that caused the wearer to risk more exposure. The feeling of false security conferred by the mask made quarantine less effective.

With these caveats in mind, homemade masks confer some measure of protection if they seal well around the face and are made of suitable materials. Researchers also noted that a homemade mask is better than none and one or two felt that the presence of the mask may remind people to avoid touching their faces although this factor wasn't studied. But it is critical that their wearers also use all the other precautions suggested and avoid feelings of invincibility and the taking of risks. Wearers should continue to avoid gatherings and wash their hands frequently, particularly after exposure to public surfaces.

Sew Your Own

Davies sewed masks for their family using the instructions and patterns available online at freesewing.org/docs/patterns/fu/instructions/. She made them from a cheerful fabric so they'd not be scary and they are sealed around the nose by an unfolded and shaped paper clip slid into the hem. Just how effective they are, however, remains a question.

Other references used in this article include:

1. [ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2440799/](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2440799/)

2. smartairfilters.com/en/blog/best-materials-make-diy-face-mask-virus/ which contains numerous secondary references to research and other sources.

3. cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/ppe-strategy/face-masks.html#crisis-capacity

4. academic.oup.com/annweh/article/54/7/789/202744 academically written study comparing fabrics against the industry standard N-95 respirator and standard surgical masks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says "The 'N95' designation means that when subjected to careful testing, the respirator blocks at least 95 percent of very small (0.3 micron) test particles. If properly fitted, the filtration capabilities of N95 respirators exceed those of face masks. However, even a properly fitted N95 respirator does not completely eliminate the risk of illness or death."

Greenbelt Mask-Making

A mask-making endeavor has been set up in Greenbelt that connects those willing and able to sew masks, donate materials and run masks to facilities in need of them. Those wishing to help can go to the Facebook page (co-vid-19 mask makers & helpers greenbelt & surrounding areas) and request to join the group, or contact Cathie at 301-655-7008 or cathie.meetre@tripleeq.com. Over 1500 masks have been made and delivered to several hospitals (including Children's Hospital), assisted living facilities and hospices. Over 50 Greenbelters are now involved in a variety of roles.



Baskets of produce are left outside the New Deal Café on Tuesday, March 31 for those who want or need it.



PHOTOS BY LEAH CURRAN MOON